

PATENT

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26 at line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

*a* -- In the configuration of **FIG. 3**, application and central security portions (321 and 322, respectively) of the security architecture are illustrated. Of note, functional components of application security portion 321 are typically hosted as services on a first server environment, while functional components of central security portion 322 are hosted as services on a second server environment. In this way, most interactions amongst functional components occur within a single server environment and do not require network transactions. In the configuration of **FIG. 3**, credentials associated with a calling component (e.g., framework credentials associated with application security framework 303 or application credentials associated with order management service 312) are used to establish sufficient authorization for network transactions. Other configurations may be employed, however, the relatively small number of network transactions (e.g., authentication transaction 331 and optional value passing transaction 332) tends to improve performance of the security architecture. Of note, authentication transaction 331 need only be performed on login credential authentication (e.g., at initial sign-on or credential upgrade) or reauthenticated (e.g., to refresh session credentials). Value passing transaction 332 provides an optional facility for passing values amongst multiple components of a distributed application (e.g., a distributed implementation of order management service 312) wherein application credentials are used to mediate storage and retrieval of values in a central registry.--